

**In the Claims**

Please amend claims 1, 6, and 8.

1. **(Currently Amended)** A polypeptide derivable from human NESP55 wherein the said polypeptide is derivable, or predicted from the amino acid sequence of human NESP55 to be derivable, by endoproteolytic cleavage of a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence

IRLEVPKRMDRRSRAQQWRRARHNYNDLCPPIGRRAATALLWLSCSIALLRAL  
ATSNARAQQRAAAQRRSFLNAHHRSGAQVFPESPESESDHEHEEADLELSLPE  
CLEYEEEEFDYETETETETETETETETDFETETETETETETETETEDDRGPVVPK  
HSTFGQSLTQRLHALKLRSPPDASPSRAPSTQEPQSPREGEELKPEDKDP~~RRD~~  
PEESKEPKKEKQRRRCKPKKPTRRDASPESSKKGPIPIRRH

(SEQ ID NO: 2)

or

MDRRSRAQQWRRARHNYNDLCPPIGRRAATALLWLSCSIALLRALATSNARAQ  
QRAAAQRRSFLNAHHRSGAQVFPESPESESDHEHEEADLELSLPECLEYEEE  
FDYETETETETETETETETDFETETETETETETETETEDDRGPVVPKHSTFGQSL  
TQRLHALKLRSPPDASPSRAPSTQEPQSPREGEELKPEDKDP~~RRD~~PEESKEPK  
EEKQRRRCKPKKPTRRDASPESSKKGPIPIRRH

(residues 9-253 of SEQ ID NO: 2)

(human NESP55) or of a variant thereof, wherein the polypeptide variant has an amino acid sequence which has at least 90% identity with the amino acid sequence given above.

2-5. **Canceled**

6. **(Currently Amended)** A polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence  $X_n$ LHALZ<sub>m</sub> (SEQ ID NO: 11), or  $X_n$ GPIPIRRHZ<sub>m</sub> (SEQ ID NO: 12) wherein  $X_n$  represents the amino acid sequence of the consecutive n amino acids immediately N terminal to the amino acid sequence LHAL (SEQ ID NO: 5) or GPIPIRRH (SEQ ID NO: 6) and wherein Z<sub>m</sub> represents the amino acid sequence of the consecutive m amino acids immediately C terminal to the amino acid

sequence LHAL (SEQ ID NO: 5) or GPIIRRH (SEQ ID NO: 6), wherein n and m may independently be any number between 0 and 30 amino acids.

7. **Canceled.**

8. **(Currently Amended)** A polypeptide variant, fragment, derivative or fusion of a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence

IRLEVPKRMDRRSRAQQWRRARHNYNDLCPPIGRRAATALLWLSCSIALLRAL  
 ATSNARAQQRAAAQRRSFLNAHHRSGAQVFPESPESEDHEHEEADLELSLP  
 ECLEYEEEFDYETESETESIETDFETEPETAPTTEPETEPEDDRGPVVPK  
 HSTFGQSLTQRLHALKLRSPDASPSRAPPSTQEPQSPREGEELKPEDKDPRRD  
 PEESKEPKKEKQRRRCKPKKPTRRDASPESSKKGPIPIRRH (SEQ ID NO: 2)

or a fusion of a said variant or fragment or derivative, wherein the polypeptide variant has an amino acid sequence which has at least 90% identity with the amino acid sequence given above and wherein the said polypeptide variant, derivative, fragment or fusion does not have the amino acid sequence

MDRRSRAQQWRRARHNYNDLCPPIGRRAATALLWLSCSIALLRALATSNARAQ  
 QRAAAQRRSFLNAHHRSGAQVFPESPESEDHEHEEADLELSLPECLEYEEE  
 FDYETESETESIETDFETEPETAPTTEPETEPEDDRGPVVPKHSTFGQSL  
 TQRLHALKLRSPDASPSRAPPSTQEPQSPREGEELKPEDKDPRDPEESKEPKE  
 EKQRRRCKPKKPTRRDASPESSKKGPIPIRRH.

(residues 9-253 of SEQ ID NO: 2)

9. **(Previously presented)** A recombinant polynucleotide encoding or complementary to a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide, for example a fusion polypeptide, according to Claim 1.

10. **(Previously presented)** A recombinant polynucleotide suitable for expressing a polypeptide according to Claim 1.

11-12. **Canceled.**

13. **(Previously presented)** A method of making a polypeptide as defined in claim 1, the method comprising culturing a host cell transformed with a polynucleotide vector construct comprising a polynucleotide suitable for expressing the polypeptide of claim 1 and isolating said polypeptide from said host cell.

14. **Canceled.**

15. **(Previously presented)** An antibody reactive towards a polypeptide according to Claim 1 or having an amino acid sequence given in claim 1.

16-19. **Canceled.**

20. **(Previously presented)** A method of treating or preventing obesity in a patient, the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of an antibody as defined in Claim 15.

21. **Canceled.**

22. **(Previously presented)** A method of identifying a polypeptide (interacting polypeptide) that is capable of interacting with a polypeptide as defined in claim 1, or that is capable of interacting with a polypeptide containing the sequence GAIPRRH, the method comprising the steps of (1) exposing the said polypeptide to a test composition that may comprise a said interacting polypeptide, (2) detecting an interaction between the said polypeptide and a said interacting polypeptide and optionally (3) identifying and/or isolating the said interacting polypeptide.

23-52. **Canceled.**